

Conewago Enterprises, Inc. (Former Chain Bike Corporation) Hanover Township, Lehigh County, PA.



The Challenge

The Conewago Enterprises, Inc. (formerly Chain Bike Corporation) site comprises 41.1 acres adjacent to the Lehigh Valley Airport, approximately 3 miles north of Allentown, PA.

In 1969, Chain Bike Corporation manufactured bicycles, exercise equipment, and metal ammunition boxes on the property. The manufacturing processes included metal electroplating, electrostatic spray painting, metal stamping, finishing, assembly and warehousing. The facility was closed in 1988.

When Chain Bike closed its doors, the property remained vacant. No new tenants stepped forward to use the site; thus, a valuable location was essentially abandoned with no environmental assessment or understanding of potential for environmental impact.

On October 23, 1991, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) received a complaint about an oil spill on the site. During the site investigation, PADEP discovered 500 leaking drums and approximately 50 drums were stacked on top of

each other in a small storage building. The site was referred to EPA, Region 3, Superfund Removal Branch on January 22, 1992 for a response action. From 1992 to 1994, EPA site cleanup was focused on drum removal to eliminate immediate threats to human health and the environment.

The Solution

In 1998 Conewago Enterprises, Inc bought the property. Realizing the unknown nature of site contamination, Conewago Enterprises began performing environmental investigation and remediation under both RCRA Corrective Action and the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program (also known as Act 2). At a meeting of all the parties, Conewago, PADEP and EPA Region III agreed that the PADEP would assume the lead role in directing the investigation and clean up at the property, with EPA monitoring progress to ensure that EPA's environmental indicator goals were met. This arrangement has proven to be very successful, with the property meeting both human health and groundwater goals in early 2002.

The Benefit

The Conewago Enterprises, Inc., working with EPA and PADEP, has nearly finished the clean-up of the former Chain Bike property. While groundwater monitoring will continue for some time, both human health and the environment are under no threat from contamination and the 41-acre property has been returned to productive use.

As of December 2002, remediation of facility soils under

both programs is complete. No further soil cleanup is required on the 41.3 acres of the former Chain Bike Facility site. The facility's groundwater plume contaminated with Trichloroethylene (TCE) and 1-1-Dichloroethene is stable, and has not migrated off-site. Groundwater will continue to be monitored at the site for several years to evaluate plume behavior.

The site now has five tenants. Binney and Smith, Inc (Crayola Crayons) has established a seasonal packaging operation that employs up to 50 people during their busy season. Toyo Tire, USA is receiving, storing and shipping newly manufactured tires employing 6 persons. WEL Companies, a food distributor is now operating at the site with 21 employees. FMI Corporation, which is involved in production of scented lotions and soaps, is operated by 23 employees. Finally, Cast-Pac, Inc. and its 60 employees assembles sprinkler pipe fittings in part of the Conewago site. The redevelopment of the former Chain Bike property has resulted in approximately 100 new jobs for the Lehigh Valley.

For More Information

EPA Region 3 Contact:
Victoria Ioff
(215)814-3415
ioff.vickie@epa.gov